

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-23 remain pending.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider earlier rejections in light of the following remarks. No new issues are raised nor is further search required as a result of the changes made herein. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 16-23 over Croft in view of Gendel

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,490,439 to Croft et al. ("Croft") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,127,936 to Gendel et al. ("Gendel"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-14 and 16-23 recite a system and method that determines an amount of quality achieved above a compliance to an acceptable level necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network and activates a variable user link acceptable quality indicator based on a quality of a condition above the acceptable level.

Croft discloses a lighted antenna that can be used to show that the transceiver is transmitting or receiving signals, that a data connection has been made, or that a Bluetooth piconet has been detected. (See Croft, Abstract) The Examiner specifically cites col. 8, line 57 to col. 9, line 2; and col. 9, line 61 to col. 10, line 3. In these teachings, Croft discloses that the "antenna can be used to provide a visual indication that conveys information to a user about . . . the strength of the incoming signals, or whether receiver 908 is transmitting or receiving." Thus, Croft conveys to a user a visual indication about a connection status NOT about a quality of a connection.

The Examiner agrees that Croft fails to teach "that the link quality is at an acceptable level determined by comparing the link quality and a minimum link quality threshold." (Office Action at 2) To cure this significant and important deficiency, the Examiner relies on Gendel to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Croft to arrive at the claimed features. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Gendel appears to disclose a system and method of providing a visual and/or audio indication of a magnitude of a received signal strength for a wireless communications system (See Abstract). Depending on the magnitude of the signal strength, an LED is flashed a certain number of times in quick succession to indicate that magnitude (See col. 4, lines 54-56).

Thus, Gendel discloses a system and method that relies on a received signal strength as a basis for providing a visual and/or audio indication of the total amount of the strength of that received signal. However, Gendel simply divides the total signal strength up into seven equal increments (See Fig. 1) and flashes a LED from one to seven times to provide a user with an indication of the total amount received signal strength. Gendel, nor Croft, disclose or suggest determination of an acceptable link quality necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network, much less disclose or suggest a system and method that determines a link quality achieved above a compliance to an acceptable link quality necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network AND activates a variable user link acceptable quality indicator based NOT on the total amount of link quality, but rather based on a quality above the acceptable link quality level necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network, as recited by claims 1-14 and 16-23.

Thus, neither Gendel nor Croft disclose or suggest a system and method that determines an amount of link quality achieved above a compliance to an acceptable link quality level necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network, much less one that activates a variable user link acceptable quality indicator based on a quality of a condition above the acceptable level, as recited by claims 1-14 and 16-23.

A benefit of such a system and method that determines an amount of quality achieved above a compliance to an acceptable link quality level necessary to establish a presence in a piconet network, and also which activates a variable user link acceptable quality indicator based on a quality of a condition above the acceptable level is, e.g., a more informed indication of connection quality ONLY BEYOND THAT WHICH IS REQUIRED. Determining quality of a signal based on total received signal strength, as disclosed by Gendel, gives no

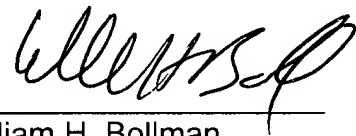
indication to a non-technical user as to how much excess link quality has been established. The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features having such benefits.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1-14 and 16-23 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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